

3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802  
June 26, 1970

Mr. Eric F. Newman, President  
Eric F. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
c/o American Numismatic Association  
P.O. Box 2366  
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80901

Dear Sir:

I am an architecture student at Louisiana State University conducting research on the old U.S. Branch Mint in New Orleans under a grant from the Baton Rouge Bureau for Lathing and Plastering for independent architectural research.

In Numismatic magazine, April 1968, you have an article entitled "The Mint at New Orleans." In my research I found a publication of that booklet in an amended form, but in the same wording and context in DeBow's Review, vol. 3, pages 528-535, dated June 1847. This periodical is a business trade journal that I believe specializes in the business of the South.

If you have per chance come across and other information pertaining to the old Mint, I would certainly appreciate your sources of information.

Sincerely,

*Charles J. Collins Jr.*  
Charles J. Collins, Jr.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 5, 1970

Mr. Charles J. Collins, Jr.  
3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Dear Mr. Collins:

Your letter of June 26, 1970 arrived at a time when I, personally, was on vacation.

I was very interested to learn from you that there was an amended form of Mr. Riddell's writing in DeBow's Review and if you could send me a photocopy of that article that would be most helpful.

As far as other information concerning the New Orleans Mint, you will find that there is a large quantity which has been published in books, in The Numismatist, and other literature.

Why don't you give me a list of the items you already have so that I can see what additional sources can be suggested.

You also ought to receive considerable help from the State Museum in the Cabildo as well as the State Library, on Jackson Square.

I presume you already have the information assembled by those who tried to save the building and to develop it into a museum.

We will gladly help you as soon as you tell us how far your research has gone.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802  
August 6, 1970

Mr. Eric P. Newman, President  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
c/o The Numismatist  
American Numismatist Association  
P.O. Box 2366  
Colorado Springs, Colo. 80901

Dear Mr. Newman:

Since my last letter to you concerning your article in the April 1968 edition of THE NUMISMATIST pertaining to the New Orleans Mint, I have found another copy of that pamphlet in the course of my research on the New Orleans Mint at Louisiana State University.

The Hoeard-Tilton Memorial Library of Tulane University in New Orleans has a copy in their Rare Book Room of the Special Collections Division. The cover bears the names of both John L. Riddel (superintendent) and M.F. Bonzano (melter and refiner). Both names are handwritten.

I have also come across another pamphlet at Tulane entitled, "General Regulations of the U.S. Branch Mint, New Orleans." It consists of seven printed pages and is signed by "Charles Bienvenu, Superintendent, New Orleans, December 4th 1854."

I hope that the above information may be of some interest to you. I would be interested in hearing if you have found any other information that may pertain to my study.

Sincerely,

  
Charles J. Collins, Jr.

3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802  
August 8, 1970

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thankyou for your letter of 5 August 1970. I suppose that by now you have received my more recent letter. Should you want copies of either pamphlet I described, please let me know.

Since June my research has progresed very nicely. I will be going to Washington to examine the Records of the Mint in the National Archives in three weeks. At that time I will also stop at the Charlotte Mint Museum and the museums and libraries in Philadelphia.

I have recently been in the old New Orleans Mint, and I plan to go in again. I found it to exceed all my expectations. The State Museum has less available information that I have, but is very interested in my research. The Mint is under their authority and is now used for dead storage. It is not open to the public.

At the Tulane University Library, I have located much information, however, I ahve not yet examined it but will do so next week. Also, the New Orleans Public Library and the Vieux Carre Commission supposedly has much information.

I have located the original 1835 plans and to meet with the architect who renovated the Mint into a Federal Prison in 1931.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS has yeilde some articles. The Americam Numismatics Association has sent me four articles: "Coinage of the Confederate States with U.S. Dies," vol. 31, p. 11, 1896; "Issues of New Orleans Mint," vol. 11, p. 47, 1876; and, " Confederate Coinage," vol. 13, p. 93, 1879. THE NUMISMATIST has only one article, by Walter Thompson, supposedly in the March 20, 1961 edition, but I have been unable to find the article. The article is entitled, "The Trouble at the New Orleans Mint-1839." I also have another article by Mr. Thompson from the EMPIRE REVIEW, August-September 1961, entitled, "The Seizure and Operation of the New Orleans Mint by the Confederacy." To date, I have been unsuccessful in contacting Mr. Thompson.

Various government documents such as: Reports of the Director of the Mint, Reports of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, Congressional Record, House Dcuments, and U.S. Statues-at-Large have yeilded considerable information.

I have two reports from the National Park Service that have good information. Also, a Historic American Building Survey

Mr. Eric P. Newman

August 8, 1970

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was made in 1963; I will examine it in Washington.

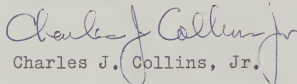
Various newspaper articles have supplied some information as well as photographs. COIN WORLD magazine of April 20, 1962 has provided me with some old photographs.

I still must personally contact some people in New Orleans who have information including: architect, Samuel Wilson; and author, Michael Kirk.

So, should you be able to direct me to any other sources of information, I will be greatly appreciative.

Enclosed you will find a photocopy of the article from DE BOW'S REVIEW from the Louisiana State University Library.

Sincerely,

  
Charles J. Collins, Jr.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 13, 1970

Mr. Charles J. Collins, Jr.  
3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Dear Mr. Collins:

Your letters of August 6 and August 6, 1970 arrived simultaneously, the former by way of Colorado Springs.

Thank you, very much, for the photocopy of DeBow's publication.

The work you have done so far indicates how much there is which can be located in the New Orleans area.

Before you tackle the United States Mint records, I would suggest that you read as much literature as you can as several others have combed those records. I am going to use the American Numismatic Society's published index and make a list for you of all the New Orleans Mint material.

Walter Thompson is deceased, having been burned to death as a result of falling asleep smoking in bed. The article you were looking for, which he wrote, is not in The Numismatist, but in the Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine; is not in March 20, 1961, but March 20, 1960. I am enclosing a photocopy.

If your investigation gets into the Confederate Half Dollar, I have a very large file covering that material and the Confederate die is still in existence somewhere in your area, having been lifted from a museum collection. I have written many times to have this investigated, but never receive an answer from anyone in New Orleans.

We hope we have been helpful.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802  
December 11, 1970

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

I wrote to you on October 1, 1970, but apparently my letter was lost. Since your last letter of August 13, 1970, I have spent two days in the National Archives researching and photographing old plans of the New Orleans Mint. My research was, however, more architectural in nature than numismatic.

In your letter, you mentioned the possibility of compiling a list of all the New Orleans Mint material from the American Numismatic Society's Index. Should you still be interested in doing this, I would appreciate any material that may deal with the physical plant, and any events of unusual interest.

Also, as a side interest, I am preparing a "Thumbnail history" of the other branch mints designed by William Strickland: the Charlotte and Dahlonega mints. Any information pertaining to these would be greatly appreciated.

The Confederate Half Dollar is of interest in my research but only in the fact that the Confederacy did use the Mint and struck coins. Should you have any general information or photographs available I am certain that they would be an interesting additive as well as add a numismatic flare to my paper.

Since you have expressed interest in the lore of the old New Orleans Mint, I should like to know if you would be interested in receiving a copy of my research paper at the cost of reproduction (including photographs). I believe it will be the most comprehensive research done on the Mint.

Yours truly,

*Charles J. Collins, Jr.*  
Charles J. Collins, Jr.



## New Orleans Mint

- Devos. Numis Scrapbook Mag V.5 p 161 illus  
— Amer Journ Num. V.20 p 17  
Breen Numismatist V.64 p 387 (1951)  
(this covers Civil War period).  
— Amer Journ Num V.31 p 11  
V.13 p 93  
V.11 p 47  
V.11 p 11  
Kirk - Coin World, Apr 20, 1962 p 50, 58 illus  
Thompson - Empire Review No. 14 p 32 (1961)  
Thompson - Num Scrap Mag V.126 p 629  
Zerbe - Numismatist, V.18 p 175

## General

- Heaton, Amy L.  
A Treatise on the coinage  
of the US Branch Mints (1893)  
Swans. Hist of US Mint  
1884 etc  
Oct 1892-3 edition  
with New Orleans  
material inc.

## Carson City Mint

- Budd - Numismatist Vol 58 p 814 (1945)  
Numis Scrapbook Magazine V.18 p 305 (1952)  
Devos V.6 p 265 (1940)  
Numismatist V.57 p 14 (1944)

## Charlotte Mint

- Breen, Walter - the Numismatist V.64 pp 606- (1951)  
" V.51 pp 213 (1938)  
V.40 p 423 (1927)  
Prother - Coin World, Apr 20, 1962 pp 48, 89  
illustrated  
Roberts - Coin World Apr 20 1962, pp 70, 78  
Hewitt - Num Scrap Mag V.15 p 1122 (1949)  
Donnelly - Numismatist V.79 p 1484. (1966)

## San Francisco Mint

- Arrington, V.L. - The Numismatist V.62 pp 633 (Nov 49)

## Dahlgren Mint

- Anthony Coin World Apr 20, 1962 p 80  
Cunniff - Numismatist V.75 p 14 (1962)  
Elder " V.52 p 169 - (1939)  
Thompson Num Scrapbook Mag V.25 p 285 (1959)  
Julian - Num Scrapbook Mag V.32 p 775 (1966)  
Julian " " " V.32 p 1031 (1966)  
Julian " " " V.33 p 1241 (1967)  
" " " " p 1571 (1967)  
" " " " p 1944 (1967)



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 18, 1970

Mr. Charles J. Collins, Jr.  
3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Dear Mr. Collins:

Your letter of October 1, 1970 with the follow-up of December 11, 1970 is not lost - only neglected.

I am enclosing herewith a longhand list of all of the articles appearing in the American Numismatic Society Index. I hope you have the various journals available in a New Orleans library.

There is so much material on the Confederate Half Dollar that I hesitate to get you too involved in that subject. Since your interest is mostly architectural and anecdotal, it would be wrong to get you involved in the technical numismatics.

With respect to receiving a copy of your research paper, our interest would be to see that it is published and when it is in final form we will try to be helpful.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802  
August 23, 1971

Eric P. Newman  
Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Within one month, I will complete my research paper for the Department of Architecture at Louisiana State University and the Baton Rouge Bureau for Lath and Plaster entitled, "A history of the United States Mint, New Orleans, Louisiana."

Since you have expressed interest in this paper, I am offering a copy for purchase at the reproduction cost. The estimated cost is:

Text: 50 pages @ 7¢ per page	\$ 3.50
cover and binding	.50
photographs	
20 - 8" x 10" @ 70¢ ea.	14.00
18 - 5" x 7" @ 50¢ ea.	9.00
29 - 3" x 5" @ 10¢ ea.	2.90
19 - photo holders @ 10¢ ea.	<u>1.90</u>
	31.80
6% tax	1.90
postage and insurance	<u>1.30</u>
TOTAL estimated cost	\$ 35.00

Should you be interested in this paper, I would appreciate a letter in no later than one month. The reproduction cost of the text will depend upon how many copies are requested.

You may purchase the text at this time, and upon examination of the index to the plates, purchase the photographs at a later date.

Sincerely

*Charles J. Collins, Jr.*  
Charles J. Collins, Jr.  
Louisiana State University

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

September 7, 1971

Mr. Charles J. Collins, Jr.  
3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you for advising that your paper on the history of the United States Mint at New Orleans is about completed. We shall be glad to have a copy.

Do you want us to help to have it published? This, of course, would depend on how long it is and whether it is from an architectural point of view or from a Mint history point of view.

Please let us know your wishes.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802  
January 24, 1972

Eric P. Newman  
Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed please find your ordered copy of my study, "A History of the U.S. Mint, New Orleans, La." The cost is:

Text: 58 pp. @ 7¢ per page	\$ 4.00
cover and binding	.50
photographs:	
20 - 8" x 10" @ 70¢ ea.	14.00
18 - 5" x 7" @ 50¢ ea.	9.00
32 - 3" x 5" @ 10¢ ea.	3.20
19 - photo holders @ 10¢ ea.	1.90
Postage, insurance, handling	2.50
TOTAL amt. due	<u>\$ 35.10</u>

Should your package arrive damaged, please notify both the Post Office and me immediately in order to file for damages. Please make your payment check payable to me and sent to the above address.

Should you want additional copies of the text or photographs, you may order them at your convenience. However, the cost for the text and photographs will be higher than this set because the original re-production cost was based upon a volume price.

Sincerely,

*Charles J. Collins, Jr.*

Charles J. Collins, Jr.

Encl.

P.S. I have copyrighted this study to protect my rights -- not to prohibit publication. Should you find this study worthy of publication, I am open to all proposals. For publication purposes, I have negatives of the photos and the original prints.

CJC

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 26, 1972

Mr. Charles J. Collins  
3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Dear Mr. Collins:

Thank you, very much, for the very unusual and interesting History of the New Orleans Mint. I read it, carefully, and am pleased that you have prepared new information which has not been available heretofore.

Because the next meeting of the American Numismatic Association is in New Orleans, it is our thought that you submit this paper to Margo Russell and suggest that it might be purchased for use in the Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine. If you wish to let it be published without compensation, we will be glad to submit it to The Numismatist.

A check is enclosed for the costs you incurred in arranging for a copy for us.

We congratulate you on such a fine piece of work.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

**SPEED LETTER®**

TO

Eric P. Newman  
Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, MO

FROM

Charles J. Collins, Jr.  
3550 Nicholson Dr., Apt. 1070  
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

## SUBJECT

"A History of the U.S. Mint, N.O., La."

—No. 9 &amp; 10 FC. D.

## MESSAGE

DATE February 2 19 72

Thank you for your letter and check of 26 January. Margo Russell already has purchased a copy along with you for the COIN WORLD library. She mentioned that she would like to "review" it, but did not mention complete publication in the SCRAPBOOK or COIN WORLD. I offered a copy to both the ANA and the ANS for their libraries, but they did not wish a copy.

Inasmuch as I have not yet graduated, I would certainly benefit from any compensation. However, in the interest of architectural, historical, and numismatic education, I am open to all proposals.

SIGNED

SIGNED Charles J. Collins, JR.

## REPLY

DATE 19

SIGNED